

I fully support the ARRL proposal in RM-10867 to restructure the Amateur Radio licensing system. I believe that the current Morse code requirement is the single greatest threat to the future of the amateur radio service. Furthermore, the Morse code requirement has become a hindrance to the recruitment, retention and training of sufficient new amateurs to meet the needs of emergency communications groups. These groups include ARES, RACES, SATERN, MARS and others.

The Morse code requirement was conceived as a means to enhance emergency response and communications. With Morse code being only another mode among many there exists no true need for CW competency. It is ironic that it now serves as the single greatest obstacle to creating a cadre of trained volunteer professional communicators.

The continued presence of a Morse code requirement is, in my opinion, hurting efforts to build robust and reliable emergency networks. With the new emphasis on homeland security and disaster planning, Amateur Radio needs the ability to attract and retain far more members than is currently the case.

The ARRL proposal addresses the need to streamline the testing process while maintaining the traditions that have been a part of ham radio since its inception. It is my hope that the FCC will act on this matter with all possible speed.

I specifically reject the proposals of the following filings. I think that these filings are for the most part self-serving or are so similar to the ARRL proposal that they do not offer enough difference to warrant consideration.

RM-10869, RM-10869, RM-10870, RM-10868

John F. Kraus II KC4ZGQ  
GA-ARES DEC for Digital Communications